gress Party. In their manifesto they say that they will extend and strengthen the PDS. The Government has already taken a decision so that some more items can be distributed through the public distribution system. The Minister is repeatedly saying that the NDDB will have market intervention, and it will cover the whole of the country by 1995. Yesterday only the Civil Supplies Minister said that because of the resource crunch for the last few months we were not importing edible oil. So, it could not be distributed through the public distribution system. Now the specific question is this. When it has also been said by the Minister that the only way to reach out to the poorer sections of the consumers is the public distribution system, is the Government ready to consider distributing the Dhara oil through the public distribution system i.e. the existing public distribution system?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: At the moment we do not have any proposal from the Civil Supplies Department to supply edible oils through the PDS, Sir. As I put it earlier, I want to reiterate the point that under the agreement between the NDDB and the Government of India, the NDDB cannot operate through the PDS. That is the thing. That is the agreement between the Government of India and NDDB when the policy was enunciated.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: That has to be changed.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: It cannot be at the moment.

Implementation of Irrigation Projects in the Drought Prone Districts

*165. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified irrigation projects for implementing them on priority basis in the drought prone districts in the country; and

(b) if so, the various irrigation projects proposed to be implemented in Phulbani, Kalahandi, Bolangir and other drought prone districts of Orissa in 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The irrigation projects under implementation in Orissa providing benefits to the drought-prone districts of Phulbani, Kalahandi and Bolangir are:

(1) Upper Indravati Multi-purpose Project—Major

(2) Modernisation of Hirakud Irrigation System—Major

(3) Upper Jonk Irrigation Project—Medium

(4) Bondapipli—Medium

(5) Hariharjore—Medium

(6) Modernisation of Budhabudhiani—Medium

(7) Modernisation of Uttei—Medium

(8) Modernisation of Saipal—Medium

श्री जगदीश जानी : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि उड़ीसा का फुलबनी जिला एक सूखाग्रस्त जिला है, मंत्री जी ने बोण्डा-पिपिलि परियोजना का 1991–92 में आर्थिक वर्ष में कार्यान्वित करने के लिए बताया है, इस परियोजना में कितना रुपया खर्च होगा और क्या परियोजना पूरी करने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही करने का है ?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, the irrigation schemes in the Phulbani District are going on, and I will supply to the House the exact amount that has been spent on these projects and the amount yet to be

[Shri Vidyacharan Shukla]
spent on these projects in the Phulbani District.

श्री जगदीश जानी : सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि फुलबनी एक पिछड़ा और सूखाग्रस्त जिला है, इस जिला की बगवं परियोजना को 8वीं योजना में कार्यान्वित करने का है, क्यों नहीं इसको 1991–92 में अधिक वर्ष में पूरा करने की कार्यवाही करते हैं? इसके साथ-साथ कालाहांडी और बोलांगीर जिला में जिन परियोजनाओं को कार्यान्वित करने के लिए जिक्र हुआ है इसके लिए कितना अर्थ रखा गया है और तुरन्त इस योजना को संपूर्ण करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम सरकार उठाने जा रही है?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : सभापति जी, इन सब परियोजनाओं के ऊपर हम लोगों ने जो खर्च किया है और जो खर्च करने जा रहे हैं, का विस्तृत विवरण मैं सभा पटल पर रखूंगा, क्योंकि यह तो ऐसी योजनाएं हैं कि जो लगातार चलती हैं और इसमें हमें जो सूखाग्रस्त इलाके हैं, जिन जिलों की विभिन्न प्रकार की जो कठिनाइयां हैं उनको इन योजनाओं के द्वारा हल करना होता है, इसीलिए जो जिले उड़ीसा के इसमें सूखाग्रस्त इलाके माने जाते हैं उसमें विभिन्न प्रकार की योजनाएं चलायी जा रही हैं। उनका जो विस्तृत खर्चा है जो कि आठवीं योजना में होना है, उसका विवरण मैं सभा पटल पर रख दूंगा।

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that the geographical location of Orissa is very peculiar. In some parts of the State, there are heavy rains and in other parts there is drought. Almost all the rivers are not perennial. That is why the Government of Orissa have requested the Government of India for early approval of some irrigations projects in the State. I want to know categorically from the Minister, how many minor, major and medium irrigation projects are still awaiting the approval of the Government of India?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: The projects for the districts of Kalahandi and Phulbani are as follows:—

Kalahandi:

1. Upper Indravati
2. Lower Indra
3. Upper Jonk
4. Uttai Project
5. Snder Project
6. Saipala Project

The projects which are under implementation are:

Phulbani:

1. Bagh Integrated
2. Bondapipli
3. Pilla Salki Project
4. Salki Project.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: As you know, Sir, Kalahandi district is a drought-prone area. The Supreme Court has constituted a committee to go into the deaths due to starvation. The findings of the Committee also confirmed that there are deaths due to starvation. The then Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi introduced some special schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of the people of Kalahandi. As a result of this, the Upper Indravati project was taken up. On the 28th July last the Upper Indravati multipurpose project was badly damaged. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps he has taken to implement the World Bank-aided Indravati multipurpose project in the worst drought-prone area in this country? Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had adopted this Kalahandi district. The World Bank project should be implemented immediately so that the water can be provided to Kalahandi district for irrigating the land. What is the view

of the Minister and what steps he has taken to implement the scheme?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, various steps have been taken by the Government of Orissa to restart the work where the accident took place. The Central Government is also giving whatever help is necessary. I am going to the State of Orissa on the 9th and will have extensive discussions with the officials concerned. I can assure the hon. Members that we will take all the steps necessary to restart the project which is very useful and which is in the advanced stage of completion so that the accident that had occurred does not cause a lot of waste of time and waste of our resources. We are aware of the difficulties being faced by the people living in the district of Kalahandi.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Kalahandi district for the Upper Indravati project, the foundation-stone was laid in the year 1977 by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai when the Janata Government was there. This was done during the Fourth Plan period. In the meanwhile this entire project is being financed by the World Bank and various foreign Governments in terms of Dollars, Yen, and Marks. Further, the government of Orissa in the meanwhile has raised the rate of minimum labour wages from Rs. 25. In the meantime, the Government has devalued the rupee. In the last month there was a disaster in the Indravati dam project. The Government says that the project would be completed by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period. The Eighth Plan has not yet begun. We do not know when the Eighth Plan is going to begin. So taking all these factors into consideration, would the Minister please indicate the exact time by which this project is going to be completed?

My second supplementary...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No second supplementary. Only one supplementary.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Sir, part (b) of my supplementary relates to the Kalahandi district. Just now the Minister in reply to a question by Shrimati Mira Das has mentioned at least 6 or 7 irrigation projects outside the Upper Indravati zone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: The Government of Orissa has asked for clearance of these projects. May I know from the Minister the reasons for the delay in clearing these projects? I want to know from the Minister by what time they are going to be cleared?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, the Upper Indravati Project suffered a mishap because of which the completion might be delayed by a few months. We will try to cut down the delay as much as possible.

In the first part of the question, the hon. Member has asked how long it will take to complete this particular project. This will certainly be delayed by a little bit. But we will try and do our best to see that the completion of this project, which is very important for this district and region, takes place as soon as possible. Under the National Management Project, out of eight projects proposed by the Government of Orissa for clearance, the Government has given clearance after receiving a detailed project report in respect of seven projects the names of which I will give shortly. As soon as the detailed project reports are received by us, we will take further action. Now, I shall read out the names of those projects. They are:

1. Mahanadi Delta System Stage-I
2. Mahanadi Delta System Stage-II
3. Salandi Irrigation System
4. Derjang Irrigation System
5. Rushikulya Irrigation System
6. Salia Irrigation System
7. Dhanei Irrigation System.

As soon as the reports are received, we shall take further action.

Setting up of a Steel Plant near Bombay

*166. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached Japan's Mistsui Trading Company to provide assistance for setting up a dollar 60 million steel plant near Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IN DEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, I want to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether, keeping in view the demand for more and better steel in the country, the Government has adopted any measure to modernise the steel plants in the country. If so, how and if not, why?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: In the existing integrated steel plants, modernisation is already going on in Durgapur as well as in Bokaro. And Rourkela is also in the pipeline. We are also thinking of having a project for modernisation in IISCO. This is in the process of going through the PIB for its consideration.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the political developments in the Soviet Union affect, in any way, the plants aided by that country? If so, what steps are the Government taking to meet that situation?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that we have got certain collaborations with the Soviet Union and some contracts were allotted to them. A delegation from our Ministry headed by the Secretary will visit that country during this month. And I hope that all the problems that are there will be solved.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned IISCO. Taking clue from that, I would like to know from the Minister this. The modernisation of that plant has been pending for a long time. And IISCO is the first steel plant in the country where about 30,000 workers are employed. The Japanese provided a rejuvenated plan but that we scuttled. I would like to know from the Minister what he is going to do about the modernising the plant, what are its details and when he is going to take it up.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, for the very interest of the plant it is not possible for me to say anything until and unless the PIB clears it. There are various alternatives. At the moment, I cannot tell what will be the final alternative. But one of the alternatives that you are suggesting is also there. The PIB will take the final decision. (*Interruptions*). We have recommended various alternatives. They will examine it. The PIB consists of representives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and others and they will examine it.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश में जितने भी स्टील प्लांट हैं, उसमें प्रमुख स्टील प्लांट सरकार की तरफ से हैं, जैसे भिलाई, राऊरकेला, दुर्गापुर और वाइजेग है और प्राइवेट में टिस्को स्टील प्लांट है । क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो नए स्टील प्लांट लगाने की बात वे सोच रहे हैं, उसमें उन्होंने उसकी कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन पर अभी गौर किया है ? अभी सरकारी स्टील प्लांट में कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन प्रति टन कितनी है और प्राइवेट स्टील प्लांट में कॉस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन प्रति टन कितनी है, क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I do not have the exact figures with me but it is a fact that the cost